

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An engine control apparatus, comprising:

a stop switch body for allowing the engine to stop or to be in an idling state;

5 a stop switch knob that abuts with the stop switch body to activate the stop switch body to allow the engine to stop or to be in an idling state;

a lock plate insertable to the stop switch knob;

a transponder that is provided at the lock plate side and  
10 transmits a predetermined ID code; and

a control section that receives the ID code transmitted from the transponder and controls the engine operation based on the ID code, wherein

when the lock plate is disengaged from the stop switch  
15 knob, the stop switch body is activated to allow the engine to stop or to be in an idling state, and

the transponder is provided separately from the lock plate and is attached to the lock plate or the vicinity thereof.

20 2. The engine control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the control section changes the engine performance based on the ID code from the transponder, and

the transponder is detachably attached to the lock plate or the vicinity thereof.

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